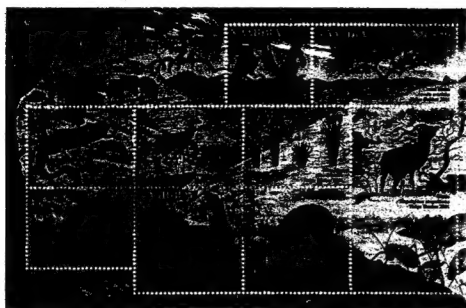


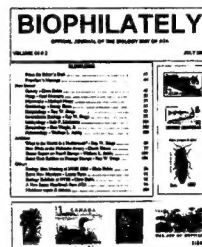
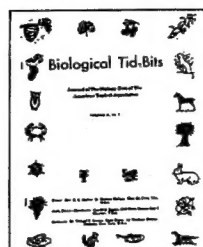
THE BIOLOGY UNIT OF THE A. T. A.



The collection of stamps portraying subjects from the natural world has long been one of the most popular areas for study. Birds, Butterflies and Flowers have headed the popularity listings of thematic subjects on stamps a number of times over the years. Needless to say, collecting the whole animal and plant world is now virtually impossible, but to collect one subject such as Plants or Animals, is possible, although expensive. A better idea is to perhaps concentrate on a narrower field such as Owls or Whales or Orchids, where the number of stamps to be found is smaller.

THE BIOLOGY UNIT OF A.T.A.

- The Biology Unit of A.T.A., which promotes the study of plants and animals on stamps – from fungi to elephants is the second oldest unit within the ATA.
- The Unit was organized on May 22, 1951 by Homer L. Jones of Baltimore, the first President and Editor, with Biology Tid-bits as the journal title.
- The Journal is published four times annually, averaging around 45 pages.



THEN

NOW

- There is a separate associate editor for each biological new issue section.
- Various articles on different aspects of Biology are also included.
- The Unit meets annually at the National Topical Stamp Show.
- An award is given for the best exhibit of a biological subject at N.T.S.S.
- Numerous handbooks have been published by A.T.A. over the years.

PALEONTOLOGY

Paleontology is the study of fossil plants and animals and the huge number of discoveries over the years have built up a picture of the changes that have taken place in the plant and animal kingdoms throughout recorded time.



Fossil plant remains often show petrified wood (left) or ferns.



Invertebrate fossils include ammonites, trilobites and other bivalves.



Some fossil remains are very complete and this enables a reconstruction of what the creature actually looked like. Some resembled present day animals.

PALEONTOLOGY



A collection could be made of Dinosaurs, great lumbering beasts that roamed the earth and were apparently mainly carnivorous.



The 'Age of Reptiles' included those in water, in the air and on land.



Many fossil birds are to be found, some resembling the ostrich (center).



Later creatures came to resemble what we see today, including man.

BOTANY



Botany is the study of plants, the great engine that regulates the atmosphere in which all life exists. You can collect a variety of topics or restrict yourself to roses (left) or orchids (right).



The addition of covers can enhance a collection, especially for an exhibit.



For the gardening philatelist, a large variety of garden flowers is available.

FUNGI



Fungi are nature's recycling facilities, and lacking chlorophyll (green pigment), they do not produce their own food. Instead, they parasitize plants and animals or decompose dead tissue to get their nutrients for growth.



Many stamps show a single fungal fruiting body or cluster of them. Most show mushrooms but many include habitat in the vignette.



Many picture edible (delicious) fungi.



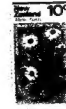
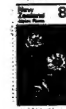
Others are literally 'to die for'!

Some fungi (at right) pose serious economic and health concerns. The spores from fungi can also be an irritant to hay fever sufferers.

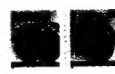
Become a fun guy, collect fungi!!



BOTANY



One can specialize with endemics, flora indigenous to a certain region.



Why not consider fruit such as apples, peaches and pears, or tropical varieties.



What about all the crop plants, the most common being maize, wheat and rice.



Another area for specialization could be trees and timber such as pine, spruce, and maple, or tropical trees like Tabebuia.

Collect Botany - it's fun!

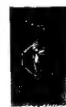
ANIMALS



The animal kingdom contains a huge array of creatures of many different sizes and shapes, from small lizards and mice to the statuesque giraffe.



The Marsupials include the Kangaroo and two varieties of Cuscus - Spotted and Bear. All Marsupials carry the young in a pouch until they are weaned.



Two groups of animals with manageable numbers of stamp issues are bats and primates. One ATA exhibitor has formed a prize-winning exhibit of bats.